

















"We, the undersigned colonists of New South Wales, desire on the approaching termination of your Excellency's







ADDITIONAL MAIL NEWS,  
VIA SAN FRANCISCO.

We give below another of our dispatches, and news extracted from our English files, to hand by the mail via San Francisco:—

## OUR RUSSIAN LETTER.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 16.

It is not an easy task to describe with accuracy the feelings which the Russian people experience on the advent of our new year. The prevalent uncertainty in all things gives food to all terrors, and leaves the field open to all suppositions. People of jovial mind make merry and indulge in rose-coloured hopes about the future. Peace with Turkey will be satisfactorily concluded; our army will be withdrawn from Bulgaria; England will become more gracious; the uprisings at home smothered by some ingenious and efficacious means, the pestilence, strangled by our old national good fairy—the frost—and everything that is unsatisfactory will make way for better and more peaceful times.

But it is not necessary to belong to the school of decided pessimists to see the mist and gloom amidst which things stand with us for the present, even though we allow due consideration to our good hopes concerning the year.

For the moment our apprehensions are turned towards home, while foreign politics—notwithstanding the bright prospects of a definite treaty with Turkey—are placed in the background.

The news lately circulated concerning the appearance of some cases of cholera in the Caucasus, and the Government cast a grim shadow over the public mind.

The first feeling of terror subsided a little when these began to be issued detailed official reports signed by the Director of the Ministry of the Interior, concerning the awful chastisement which was supposed to have come over the country. Every body was reassured, and the Government detailed to the press the number of cases and the means they intended to apply for preventing the disease from spreading; everybody felt also a little relieved, when on the 7th January an extraordinary State Council was assembled for discussing the matter, and, when as a result medical aid was sent to the suffering districts and strict directions were issued to the authorities of the infected localities, to supply the public with the medication of the Ministry of the Interior—with the most detailed information concerning the course of the malady.

Thanks to this new system of trust in the public, Russian society was able to form a pretty accurate view of the things. The epidemic, it was stated, was concentrated in the provinces of the Caucasus, the Astrakhan Government, chiefly consisting of Cossack settlements, and the way in which the plague arose appears clear enough. All the men of these localities who were capable of performing military service, went (as all Cossacks are obliged to do) during the preceding years to the seat of war, and brought, it is supposed, the disease home with them from Asia Minor, whither it had come from Persia. The first half of the present reign was almost exclusively spent in instituting reforms on a large scale in the country. To that period belongs the liberation of the peasants, the institution of modern tribunals, and of the Zemstvos with their provincial assemblies of representatives of all classes, nobles, peasants, clergy, and townspeople, an institution, indeed, of which the Government on a small scale, designed for the management of all the business connected with the rural economy of every province or government, as it is called here.

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During the coming months of frost, on which we can happily reckon just now.

The excitement which prevailed among the students of our universities has subsided a great deal under the strong measures which have been taken against them by the police, but nobody is able to tell us how long they will endure in quiet the present state of things, which was created—it must be acknowledged—chiefly by their own foolish proceedings. It is quite true, that they have very much to complain of, that all the requests contained in their petition of the 9th December last, to the His Majesty's Apparent were well worthy of consideration, but in the end they employed for raising those questions they made two terrible blunders. First of all they did not even think of considering the state of circumstances, so as to choose the best time for presenting their petition; in their hurry to attain their ends they went to the palace in a procession of some 800 youths, three days after the birth of a son to the His Majesty's Apparent, and when the public mind was in a state of excitement, and at such a time is a little out of place. Secondly, in their confidence in the personal kindness and sagacity of the Czar, to whom they decided to apply for redressing their grievances, they should not have forgotten that even he could do nothing for them otherwise than by means of the same police officials they were complaining of.

Considerations of this kind ought to have prevented the students to lay aside for some time at least, all other movements which are provided by the police regulations of this country. But they could not induce themselves to abandon for a time their usual playing at—indeed it could not be called any other name—Nihilism. They dropped in the University Library a number of the prescribed books, wrote some petitions, and sent them to the Minister of Education, and ground literature regularly sent by them to real and dangerous Socialists. Those Socialists are continually endeavouring to implicate these young, hot-tempered men in some trouble with the police authorities, in order to make them suffer some act of injustice, and so to get hold of them afterwards, in a moment of exasperation, to make them their own slaves, which is a distasteful task to all honest and industrious people.

The petition presented by the students could not of course be stopped; it found its way to the His Majesty's Apparent, but in the meantime made requisitions at the students' library, and at their houses, and found sufficient proof for putting them even before the indulgent eyes of the Czar, which in a most unfavourable light, and when he could not get anything they asked for; and so, the police authorities they were complaining of, got the better of them in the struggle. Many students were arrested in the course of the last few months; many of them have been released, but the fate of some of those detained is not known up to the present.

It may be easily imagined that the families of the latter class are not quite in a happy frame of mind at this season of the advent of the New Year.

But the internal troubles of the country did not stop with the students' disturbances. The transition period we live in makes itself felt in almost all classes of society. I have not lived for any long time together in Russia during the last six years, and therefore am perhaps able to take a detached view of the things, which produces the present dissatisfaction among the people here. The first half of the present reign was almost exclusively spent in instituting reforms on a large scale in the country. To that period belongs the liberation of the peasants, the institution of modern tribunals, and of the Zemstvos with their provincial assemblies of representatives of all classes, nobles, peasants, clergy, and townspeople, an institution, indeed, of which the Government on a small scale, designed for the management of all the business connected with the rural economy of every province or government, as it is called here.

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one large Bulgaria have come to nothing, that thousands of these unhappy people are still condemned to share the doubtful fate of other Ottoman subjects, we have grown pretty indifferent on many points of our foreign policy. The events of last year sufficiently opened our eyes to the position of Russia among other European States. The completion of our diplomatic relations with Austria and other Governments, after our successful war with Turkey, and after the conclusion of the preliminary peace at San Stefano, clearly showed us that—with the exception of the Slavonic races—we have no friends in Europe. The Russian nation cannot (and will not) forget the failure of our diplomatic policy in the East, and no Russian is as yet able to speak with any coolness of all we gained at the cost of so many sacrifices, and subsequently lost because of the unanimous malvolence of Europe.

Most of our hopes and expectations for the future depend on the manner in which the Eastern Question has been settled, and the first step is likely to be taken before long by the official report about the conclusion of our separate Treaty with Turkey, is expected here at every moment. The future is full of hope, but we have still in our egotism the consolation to know that, in moving in darkness, we only share the fate of all Europe, who, in her endeavours to injure us, has not been able to preserve her own interests.

## JANUARY 17, EVENING.

P.S.—We have received just now the Standard of the 14th January, with the text of a would-be petition for Constitutional rights, presented to the Czar by the provincial Chambers of the Zemstvo, which I have called "Assemblies" in the present letter. I must state that such a petition existed only as a project, and that it has never been the form of an address, because the Assembly was closed by the General-Governor of Kharkoff, the Prince Krapotkin, before they had time to make up the address. No other Zemstvo has any intention to act in that way, and so I can assure you that the above-mentioned petition never existed in the imagination of Vienna's journalists.

## THE COURT.

It is reported from Berlin that the Princess Beatrice, Her Majesty's youngest daughter, is going on a visit to that city. The Princess Imperial of Germany is credited with having arranged a scheme for the marriage of her daughter, the Princess Victoria of Hesse-Darmstadt, with the Prince of Wales. The Princess Victoria will remain in England as Her Majesty's companion during the tour of the Princess Beatrice.

The Crown Prince of Prussia is reported to be in England at the end of February, in order to attend the marriage of the Duke of Connaught, and the Crown Prince will be accompanied by his wife, the Princess Victoria. The Crown Prince will be accompanied by his wife, the Princess Victoria.

At Windsor Castle arrangements are now being made for the marriage of the Duke of Connaught, and the Crown Prince will be accompanied by his wife, the Princess Victoria. The Crown Prince will be accompanied by his wife, the Princess Victoria.

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Parents who fail to comply with the provisions will in the first instance be subjected to a public admonition, but they will ultimately be liable to a temporary deprivation of their rights. The Council of the Poor Law Board has decided that the attendance of members of the Poor Law Board will be required in the House should it be in Paris, but Mr. O'Connell said the Council did not know him to the question. The Senate has authorized the Council to be in Paris during the course of the present session.

The *Republique Française* published an article in which it said that the Government were ready to receive the recently pardoned Communists in New Caledonia from residing in Paris. Should such be the case, the *Republique Française* considers that the Government would be committing a grave error.

The National Assembly has decided that the commission of inquiry into the recent revelations of crimes alleged to have been committed by the Minister of the Interior (who will provide), M. Peyrat, Tirard, Giot, Boucher, Cadat, and two assistants, the Commission will be in Paris during the course of the present session.

A telegram from Paris, dated January 20, says the resignation of Marshal MacMahon may now be regarded as certain. It is believed that at the sitting of the Chamber of Deputies on the 19th inst. the resignation of the President to sign the decree respecting the high military command, and that a vote of confidence in the Government will thereupon be passed. M. Dufaure will then move the order for the resignation of the President, who will at once resign. A Congress of both Chambers will be summoned to meet in a day or two for the purpose of electing a new President.

The trial of the directors of the City of Glasgow Bank commenced on January 20, in the High Court of Justice, Edinburgh. The indictment in effect charges the promoters with having failed to balance their accounts, and with having misappropriated the money of the bank, and generally with fraud, theft, breach of trust, and embezzlement. Mr. Macintosh, on behalf of the promoters, at the opening of the trial, moved that the grand jury should be directed to find the directors not guilty of any offence, and that the trial should be continued on the ground of relevancy, and quoted a case in Scotch law where the Court held that charges of fraud, theft, breach of trust, and embezzlement, were not sufficient to maintain an action, because they were not adequately specific. He proceeded to argue that the directors might have been guilty of some offence, but that the evidence in the case was not sufficient to maintain an action, and that the trial should be continued on the ground of relevancy, and quoted a case in Scotch law where the Court held that charges of fraud, theft, breach of trust, and embezzlement, were not sufficient to maintain an action, because they were not adequately specific.

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by fire, smoke, and water; cause of fire not known; insurance not known.

## LAMENTABLE OCCURRENCE IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The following has been forwarded to the London Press from the Colonial Office:—In July last Sir Basil Parnell, in his capacity as High Commissioner of South Africa, reported the selection of Captain Patterson and Mr. J. G. Sargant to visit Johannesburg, the King of the Matabele, a powerful tribe living between the northern frontier of the Transvaal and the Zambesi, for the purpose of obtaining greater facilities of intercourse for European traders. These officers reached the King's camp, and after a few days' stay, Sir Basil Parnell and Mr. Sargant proceeded on their journey to the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi, and within three days' journey of their destination, having been three days without water, they arrived at a spring which appears to have been impregnated with some poisonous substance, for it is stated that, after drinking the water, the whole party was seized with violent illness, and in the course of the next few days Captain Patterson, Mr. Sargant, and Mr. Sargant died. There appears, in the opinion of those on the spot best qualified to judge, to be no ground for attributing this lamentable occurrence to treachery on the part of Lobengula, or of the natives who accompanied the expedition, or for assigning to other than purely accidental causes the fatality which has resulted in the loss of two most promising officers.

## THE TRIAL OF THE GLASGOW BANK DIRECTORS.

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## THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION.

Letters received from the London Commission by the latest mail show that, in England and on the Continent, matters in connection with the Exhibition are proceeding in a most satisfactory manner. Not only will the expenditure, which we can afford to be occupied, but it is stated that, in consequence of the depression in trade and the anxiety to find new markets for manufactures, double the amount of space could be easily filled with valuable exhibits. Agricultural implements and machinery, with all new inventions, will form a specially attractive feature of the exhibits from home. The Commission here are also advised of the great attractiveness which will be given to the Exhibition by musical performances of a high-class character. A large organ, which has been obtained in England, is to be sent over, and arrangements are being made here for the holding of first-class concerts in the building on Saturday afternoons during the Exhibition continues. The loan collection of paintings of which mention was made some time ago, is being prepared in London. The total value of the paintings will be about £20,000. It is intended also to obtain a valuable collection of statuary.

The building in the Inner Domain continues to progress with, so far as the colonies are concerned, unexampled and astonishing rapidity. So vast is the work, and so little time has been occupied in advancing it to the present state, that the officer a person contemplates it the more cause he has for wonderment. The main part of the building has been extended almost to its extreme limit, and the work of fitting the nave and transept roofs has been begun. Altogether, there are about 1000 men employed, a very threatening position for the work of preparation for that of making the ornamental mouldings for the building, which is done with palisade iron, instead of wood. This is a branch of industry which had its origin in America. It is entirely a new importation, and was first introduced by the American Central Exhibition building, and Mr. Bush, the gentleman who is over the work here, was also engaged in it there.

## Borough Council Notices.

ABSTRACT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE during Half Year ended February 3, 1879.

1878-August.	General Rates	£	s.	d.
To Balance forward	...	6311	11	4
1878-February 3.	...	246	17	0
Bonded Ward	...	605	8	8
Waterloo Ward	...	186	6	3











